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**From:** Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer [Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 2/10/2021 5:49:17 PM  
**To:** Robbins, Chris [Robbins.Chris@epa.gov]; Rodan, Bruce [rodan.bruce@epa.gov]; Frey, Christopher [Frey.Christopher@epa.gov]; D'Amico, Louis [DAmico.Louis@epa.gov]; Cascio, Wayne [Cascio.Wayne@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Hubbard, Carolyn [Hubbard.Carolyn@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** FW: Follow-up Re: Home for EPA research rabbits

Sharing the response

Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, PhD  
Acting Assistant Administrator, and  
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Research and Development  
US Environmental Protection Agency

DC 202-564-6620

Cel Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

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**From:** Bhandari, Pradnya <Bhandari.Pradnya@epa.gov> **On Behalf Of** Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2021 12:13 PM  
**To:** Justin Goodman <justin@whitecoatwaste.org>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer <Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Henry, Tala <Henry.Tala@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Anthony Bellotti <ab@whitecoatwaste.org>; John Ramer <john@kindnessranch.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Follow-up Re: Home for EPA research rabbits

Dear Mr. Goodman,

Thank you for your message regarding the research animals in EPA's Research Triangle Park laboratories. The EPA Office of Research and Development maintains a population of eight rabbits for research that supports the Agency's goal to reduce the use of animals in laboratory research through the development of alternative testing methods, and is consistent with the previous Administration's direction to reduce animal research in the Agency. The animals are never exposed or tested in any way, and each rabbit serves EPA research for years.

EPA research activities follow existing certifications and accreditations to ensure the highest standards of animal care. Currently, the ORD rabbits are beneficiaries of a "Retire in Place" policy. When they are no longer available for scientific use they are retired from duty but continue to live in the vivarium at the EPA Lab. They receive daily animal husbandry and veterinary care, socialize in the vivarium's playroom, eat hay and fresh vegetables, are exposed to an assortment of mental and physical stimulation objects ("toys"), and receive extensive human interaction during grooming, exams, and trips to the playroom. They will remain with their colony and the only caregivers they have known.

Thank you for your interest.

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**From:** Justin Goodman <[justin@whitecoatwaste.org](mailto:justin@whitecoatwaste.org)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2021 4:12 PM  
**To:** Grantham, Nancy <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)>; Orme-Zavaleta, Jennifer <[Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov)>; Henry, Tala <[Henry.Tala@epa.gov](mailto:Henry.Tala@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Anthony Bellotti <[ab@whitecoatwaste.org](mailto:ab@whitecoatwaste.org)>; John Ramer <[john@kindnessranch.org](mailto:john@kindnessranch.org)>  
**Subject:** Follow-up Re: Home for EPA research rabbits

Hello all,

We were thrilled to hear EPA Admin. nominee Michael Regan's commitment in today's confirmation hearing to supporting EPA's outstanding work to end animal testing. President Biden has also been an advocate for lab animal retirement since the 1980s and we're excited to build on his legacy on this issue.

Might we be able to schedule a call to discuss plans for the retirement of the rabbits in NC and how WCW and Kindness Ranch can help?

Hope to connect soon,

Justin

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**Justin Goodman, M.A.**

Vice President, Advocacy and Public Policy  
White Coat Waste Project

*Taxpayers shouldn't be forced to pay \$20 billion+  
for **wasteful** government animal experiments.*

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**From:** John Ramer <[john@kindnessranch.org](mailto:john@kindnessranch.org)>

**Date:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 11:15 AM

**To:** Justin Goodman <[justin@whitecoatwaste.org](mailto:justin@whitecoatwaste.org)>

**Cc:** "Henry.Tala@epa.gov" <[Henry.Tala@epa.gov](mailto:Henry.Tala@epa.gov)>, "Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov" <[Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov)>, "Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov" <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)>, Anthony Bellotti <[ab@whitecoatwaste.org](mailto:ab@whitecoatwaste.org)>

**Subject:** Re: Home for EPA research rabbits

Good day all,

Thank you very much for the introduction Justin, I am honored to e-meet everyone and look forward to working closely with you all in the future.

Our support base falls well below the 3 million of WCW though I can say our base of over 700,000 also extends a great amount of gratitude in taking these steps to offer a thriving retirement to these animals.

Kindness Ranch sits on just under 1200 acres in beautiful southeastern Wyoming with a full time live onsite staff that is eager to care for these beautiful souls. **In 2019 we transported over 100 animals from 12 states to our sanctuary and ended the year with adopting out 92 dogs, 47 cats and retiring 16 farm animals. Last year, due to the current COVID crisis those numbers dropped some, though we still were able to offer retirement to 3 pigs, 2 rabbits, 35 cats and 93 dogs with a placement of 62 of those dogs. All placed with us from labs.**

I am very proud of our staff here and assure you all that we are ready and able to offer a fantastic home and placement options.

I look forward to working with you all,

--

**John Ramer - Executive Director**

**Phone 307-331-5729**

*Sanctuary Phone and hours -*

307-735-4177

*Mon – Sun: 9am – 5pm*

Kindness Ranch Animal Sanctuary

"Some people talk to animals. Not many listen though. That's the problem." — A.A. Milne

**From:** Justin Goodman <[justin@whitecoatwaste.org](mailto:justin@whitecoatwaste.org)>

**Date:** Monday, January 25, 2021 at 3:14 PM

**To:** "[Henry.Tala@epa.gov](mailto:Henry.Tala@epa.gov)" <[Henry.Tala@epa.gov](mailto:Henry.Tala@epa.gov)>, "[Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov)" <[Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:Orme-Zavaleta.Jennifer@epa.gov)>, "[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)" <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** John Ramer <[john@kindnessranch.org](mailto:john@kindnessranch.org)>, Anthony Bellotti <[ab@whitecoatwaste.org](mailto:ab@whitecoatwaste.org)>

**Subject:** Home for EPA research rabbits

Dear Dr. Hala, Dr. Orme-Zavaleta and Ms. Grantham,

Thank you in advance for your time. I hope you're all safe and healthy. On behalf of our 3 million supporters, thank you for your commitment to reducing animal testing, and your recent decision to retire the rabbits in RTP. We're so grateful for our relationship with the EPA and look forward to continuing to support your important efforts in this area.

On this note, I have CC'd John Ramer, the executive director of Kindness Ranch Animal Sanctuary, an outstanding non-profit that works extensively with labs to provide homes for former research animals. **John and the Kindness Ranch have generously offered to handle all logistics for the retirement of the EPA rabbits, including transportation from NC to WY, veterinary exams, adopter screening and placement in homes.**

WCW has helped secure the retirement of lab animals from other federal agency labs and would be honored to help facilitate the retirement of these rabbits at EPA.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Justin

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**Justin Goodman, M.A.**

Vice President, Advocacy and Public Policy

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